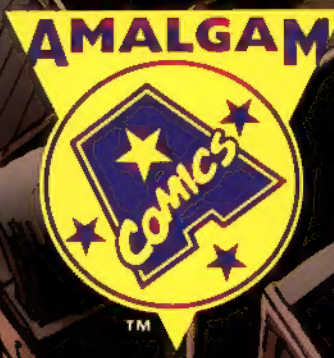




DON'T DARE MESS WITH THE MYSTERIOUS

BATTHING

#1

HAMA
DAMAGGIO
SIENKIEWICZ

\$1.95 US
\$2.75 CAN
JUN '97



THE
SHOCKER
YOU NEVER
EXPECTED
TO SEE!



DIRECT SALES

IN THE SHADOW OF THE RIVER DRIVE,
WHERE THE BROWN WATER MEETS
THE GREY EDGE OF THE CITY...

...AND THE STINK OF THE GOTHAM
FISH MARKET MINGLES WITH DOWNWIND
TRACES OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT
PLANT...

...LIES A NETHER-REALM
OF WINDS, JUNKIES AND
URBAN WALKING-WOUNDED.

"A GOOD PLACE TO LOSE SOMEBODY"
AS SOME OF THE LOCAL WISE-GUYS
MIGHT SAY.

...THE UNIFORMS HAD IT
TAGGED AS A MOB-RELATED
HIT, BUT I KNEW IT WAS THE
BAT-THING AS SOON AS
I SAW THE WOUNDS.

HUGGY MADDOX
NEVER WON NO BEAUTY
CONTESTS WHEN HE WAS
AMONGST THE LIVING...

...BUT THEM CLAW
MARKS AND ACID
BURNS SURE DON'T
HELP.

WHY WAS A MIDDLE-
LEVEL DRUG DEALER STRAPPIN'
HUSHED IRON?

HUGGY
WAS NO STREET
SOLDIER--HE WAS
MANAGEMENT!

HE USED TO HANG WITH FAT
FREDDY FANELLI UNTIL I SENT
FANELLI UPSTATE FOR TEN TO
TWENTY.

FAT FREDDY
FANCIED HIMSELF
A STONE GANGSTER
WHEN HE WASN'T
PEDDLING NOSE-
CANDY TO ROCK
STARS.

YOU PUT A LOAD OF TWELVE-
GAUGE BUCK INTO FAT FREDDY'S
FACE, DIDN'T YOU?

HAD TO.

HE WENT
FOR HIS BISCUIT,
BABE.



BAT-THING SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

WHU--?

BAT-THING!

HE NEVER
LEFT THE SCENE!
HE'S--

WRITER - LARRY HAMA
PENCILLER - RODOLFO DAMASSIO
INKER - BILL SIENKIEWICZ
COLORIST - GLORIA VASQUEZ
LETTERER - ALBERT DE GUZMAN
SEPARATOR - JAMISON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR - JORDAN B. GOREFINKEL
EDITOR - DENNIS O'NEIL

WHOOOOOSH!!



--GONE!

WHERE
IS THAT
MONSTER??

DIDJA
SEE HIM?
HE'S STILL
HANGING
AROUND!!



COOL IT, MONTOYA,
THERE'S TAXPAYERS DRIVING
BY UP THERE.

BAT-THING DON'T
HAVE NO NERVES LIKE YOU
AND ME. HE'S JUST HANGING
OUT BY INSTINCT.

NOW, I GOTTA GO
OVER AND TELL FRANCIE-
ELLEN SALLIS THAT HER
HUSBAND KIRK IS BACK.



I'LL SEE YOU
BACK AT THE
OFFICE.

YOU GONNA
TYPE UP THE
REPORT,
RIGHT?

DON'T I
ALWAYS?

WHAT ARE YOU,
HER PRIVATE GUARD,
BULLOCK?

SURE. HER
AND SIX MILLION
OTHER CITIZENS...

... THAT'S WHAT THE
JOB IS ALL ABOUT.

HOW COME I COME UP WITH
MY BEST ZINGERS WHEN SHE'S
OUTTA EARSHOT?

OOF! STUPID,
LUMPY FM RADIO
ALWAYS STICKIN' IN
MY SIDE--

OF COURSE, I MIGHT
NOT HAVE THAT PROB IF
I LAY OFF THE DONUTS
AND CHINESE
TAKE-OUT.

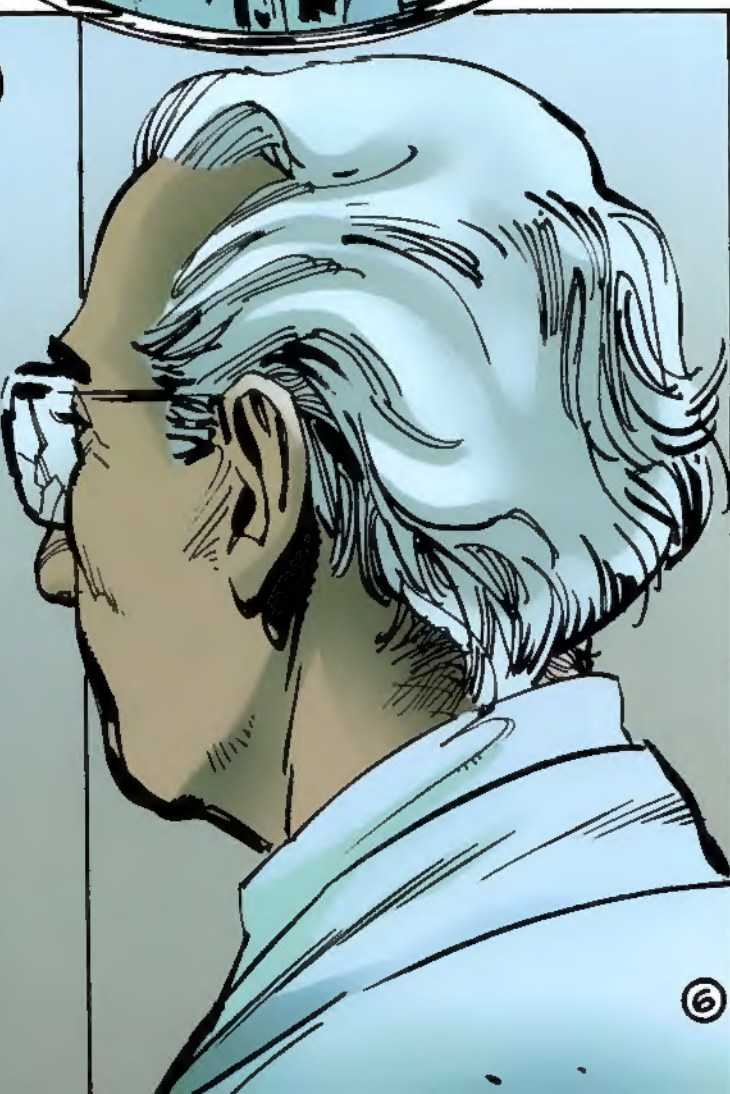
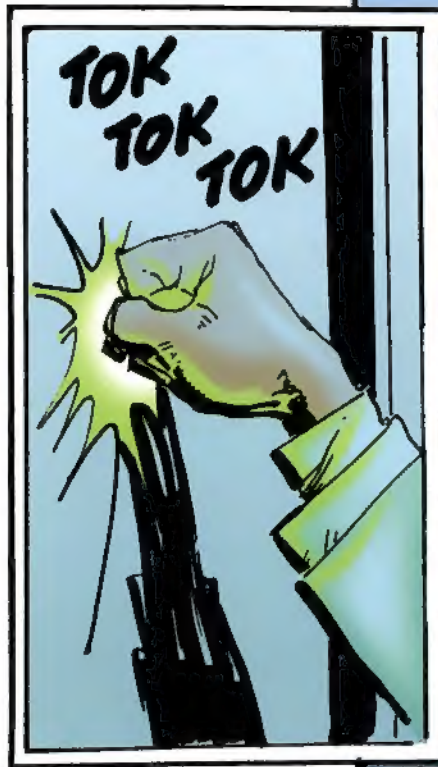
THAT'LL
BE THE
DAY.

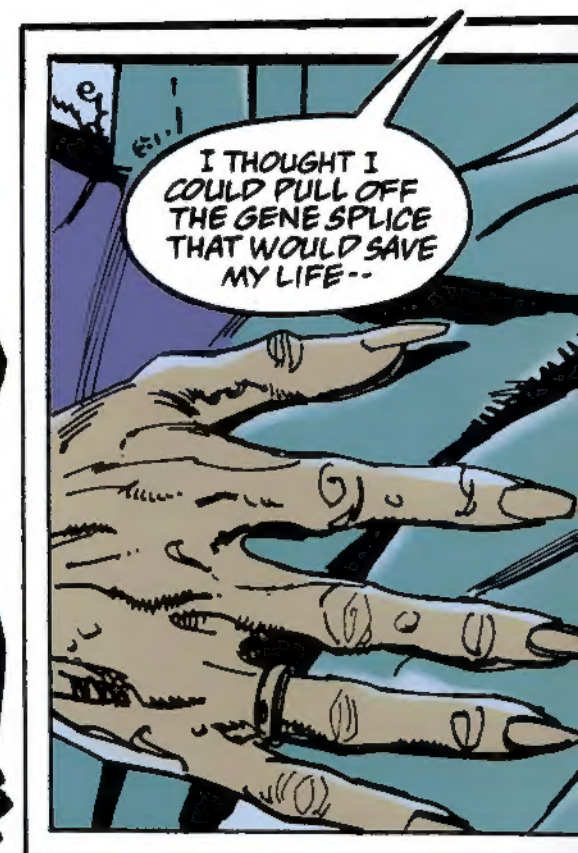
LESSEE...
FRANCIE SALLIS IS
AT 53 BRIDWELL
STREET.,,

THASSS
RIGHT,
BULLOCK...

... YOU'RE SSSO SSSMUG,
YA DON'T EVEN WATCH YER
BACK!

THASSS GONNA
BE YOUR DOWNFALL,
MR. SSSMARTY-PANTSSS
DETECTIVE!



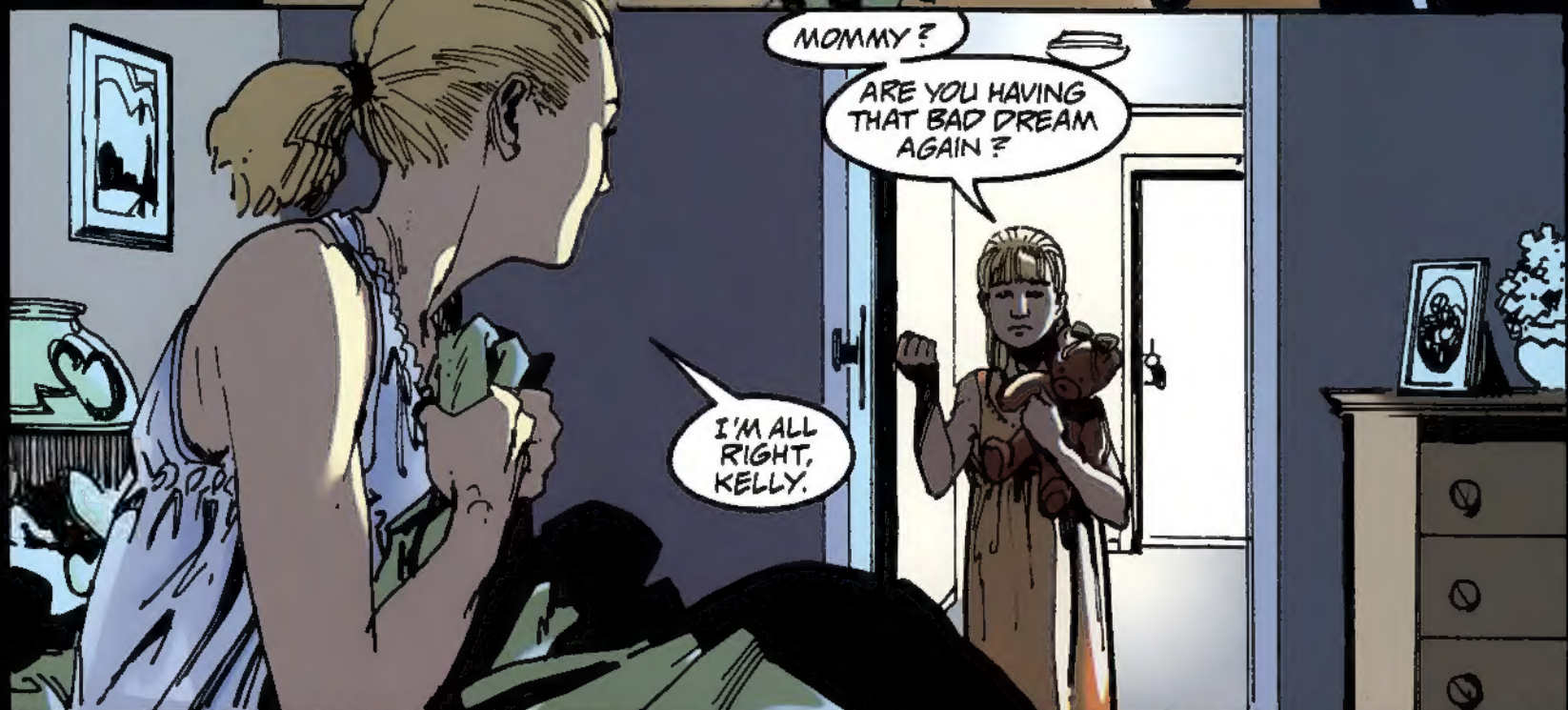




OH, MY GOD.

AM I GOING TO HAVE THAT SAME NIGHTMARE FOREVER...?

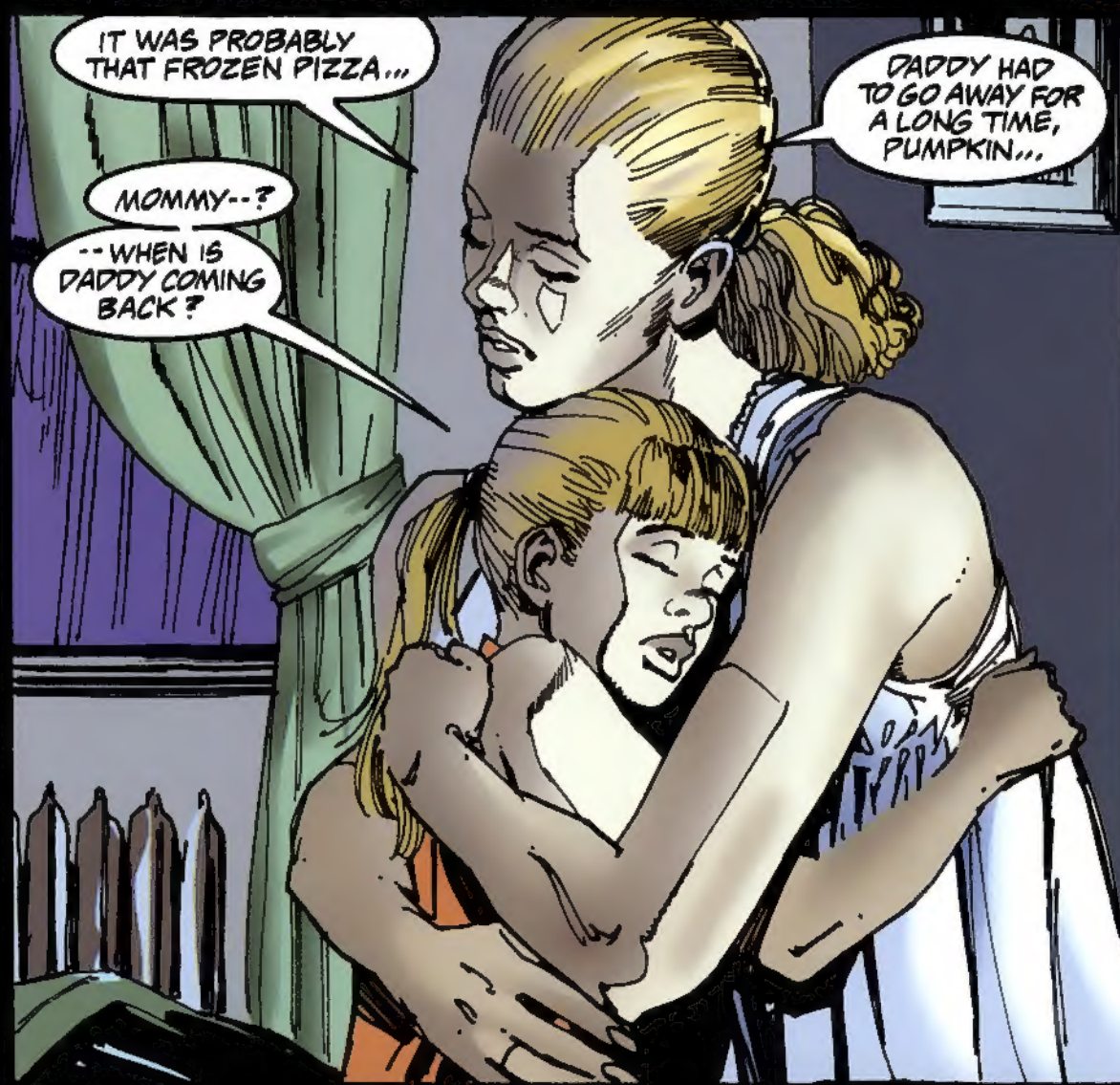
OH, LORD.



MOMMY?

ARE YOU HAVING THAT BAD DREAM AGAIN?

I'M ALL RIGHT, KELLY.

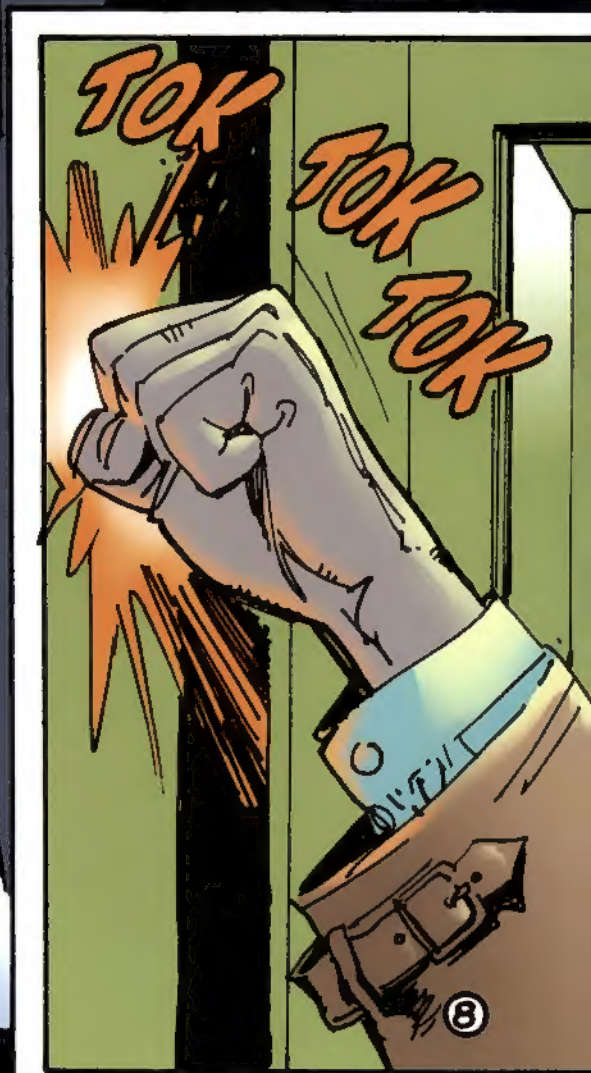


IT WAS PROBABLY THAT FROZEN PIZZA...

MOMMY--?

--WHEN IS DADDY COMING BACK?

DADDY HAD TO GO AWAY FOR A LONG TIME, PUMPKIN...



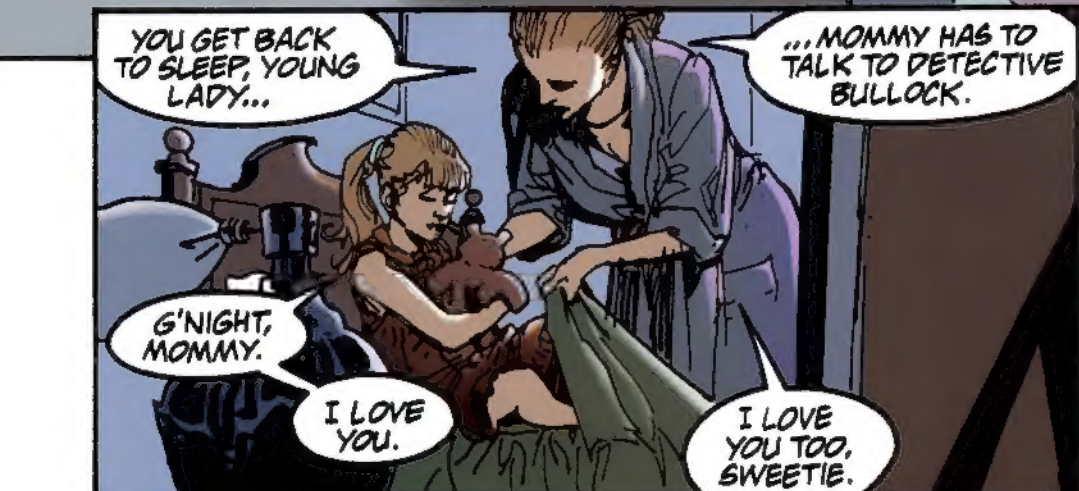


WH-WHO IS IT?

MRS. SALLIS? IT'S ME, DETECTIVE CLARK BULLOCK.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, BUT IT'S REAL IMPORTANT.

HE'S BACK AGAIN.



YOU GET BACK TO SLEEP, YOUNG LADY...

... MOMMY HAS TO TALK TO DETECTIVE BULLOCK.

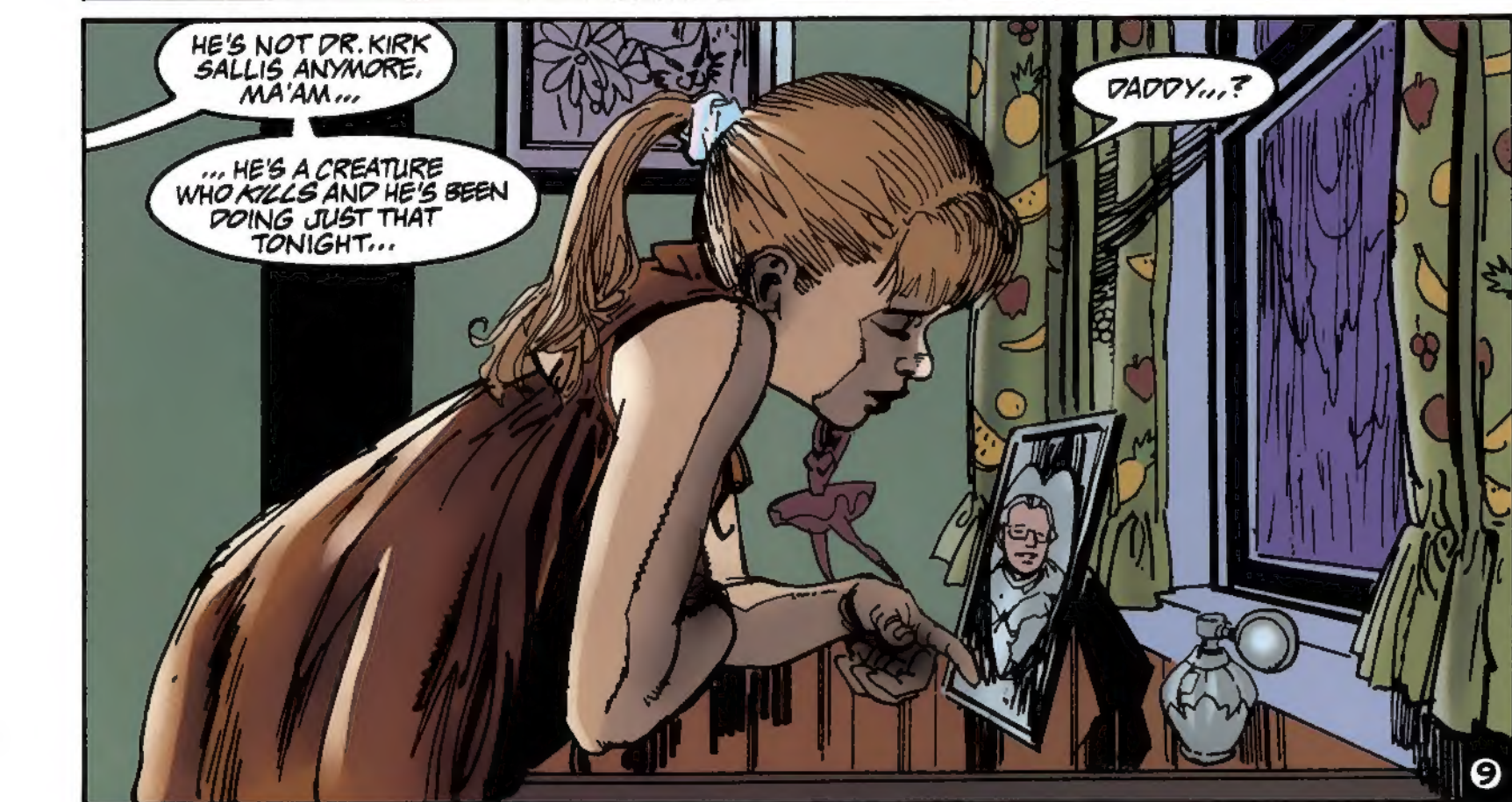
G'NIGHT, MOMMY.

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO, SWEETIE.



I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, DETECTIVE BULLOCK, KIRK WOULD NEVER HARM ME OR KELLY--



HE'S NOT DR. KIRK SALLIS ANYMORE, MA'AM...

... HE'S A CREATURE WHO KILLS AND HE'S BEEN DOING JUST THAT TONIGHT...

DADDY...?



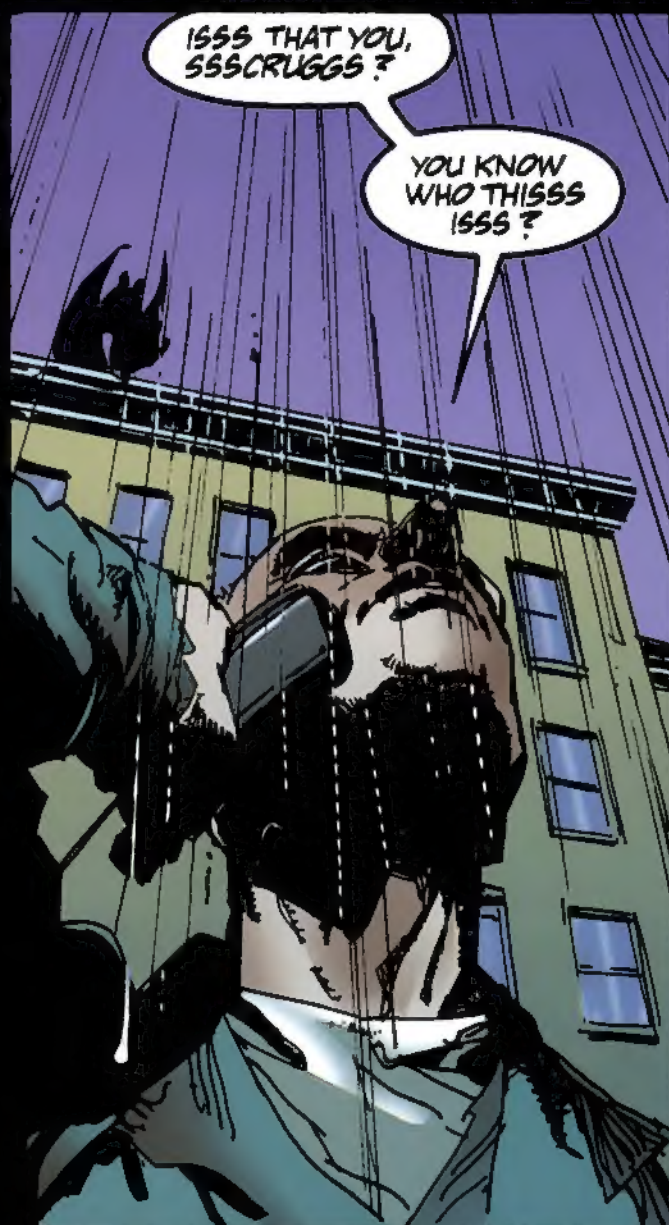
...DADDY?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
HE LOVES US!

MY DAD LOVED MY MOM, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM BEATING ON HER.

"IS THAT THE REASON FOR YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST IN OUR SAFETY, DETECTIVE?"

"NO, MA'AM, IT'S THE REASON I BECAME A COP."



ISSSS THAT YOU, SSSCRUGGS?

YOU KNOW WHO THISSSS ISSS?



YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'?

SO WHAT'S THE ACTION, RADIATOR-MOUTH?

YOU STILL GOT THAT CONTRACT OUT? YOU STILL OFFERIN' THE BIG BUCKS?

WRITE DOWN THIS ADDRESSSS...



...FILL OUT THE PAPERWORK, HE SAYS--

--SO WHERE DID HE FILE IT IN ALL THIS MESS?

HOW CAN HE EXPECT ME TO--?

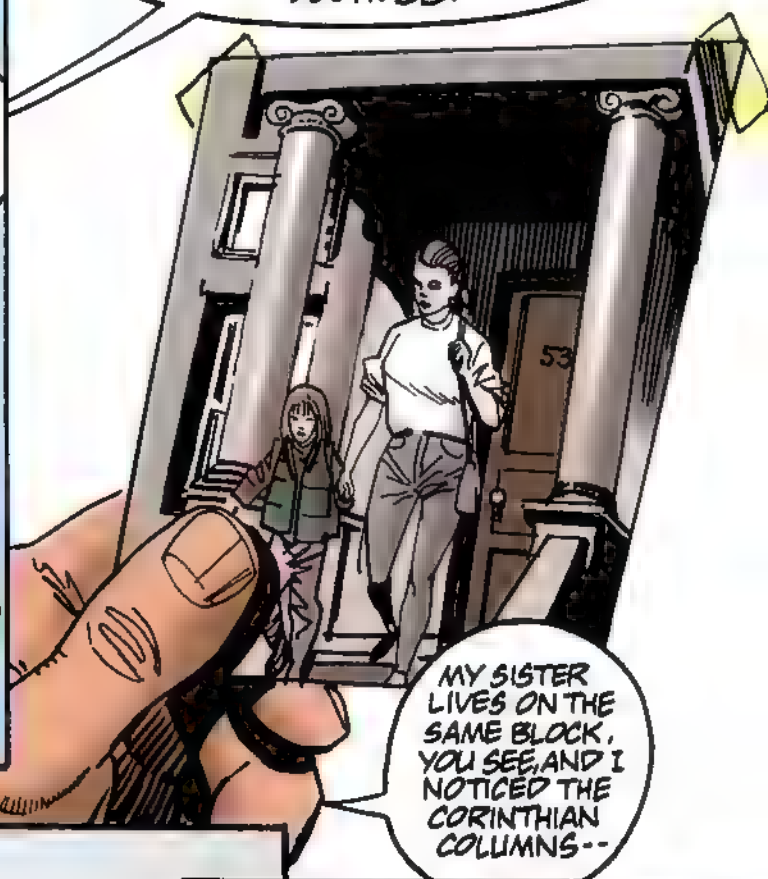


IT APPEARS TO BE A CANDID SHOT OF A YOUNG LADY AND A FOUR-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN FRONT OF A BUILDING I RECOGNIZE AS BEING ON BRIDWELL STREET. THE NUMBER IS ON THE DOOR. 53.



DETECTIVE CHRISTINE MONTOYA? THIS IS DR. SOSUMI AT THE M.E.'S OFFICE.

I WAS DOING THE PREP BEFORE THE AUTOPSY ON HUGWORTH A. MADDOX AND I DISCOVERED A PHOTOGRAPH TAPED TO THE SMALL OF HIS BACK.



MY SISTER LIVES ON THE SAME BLOCK, YOU SEE, AND I NOTICED THE CORINTHIAN COLUMNS--



53 BRIDWELL?

WHAT WAS HUGGY MADDOX DOING WITH A PICTURE OF KIRK SALLIS'S WIFE AND KID TAPED TO HIS BACK??

WHAT'S THIS ???

WHAT'S WHAT?



CAN'T TALK TO YOU ANY LONGER, DOC!

I'VE GOTTA GET A HOLD OF BULLOCK ASAP!!

ALERT BULLETIN
RECENT ESCAPEE



I SHOULD CHECK IN--

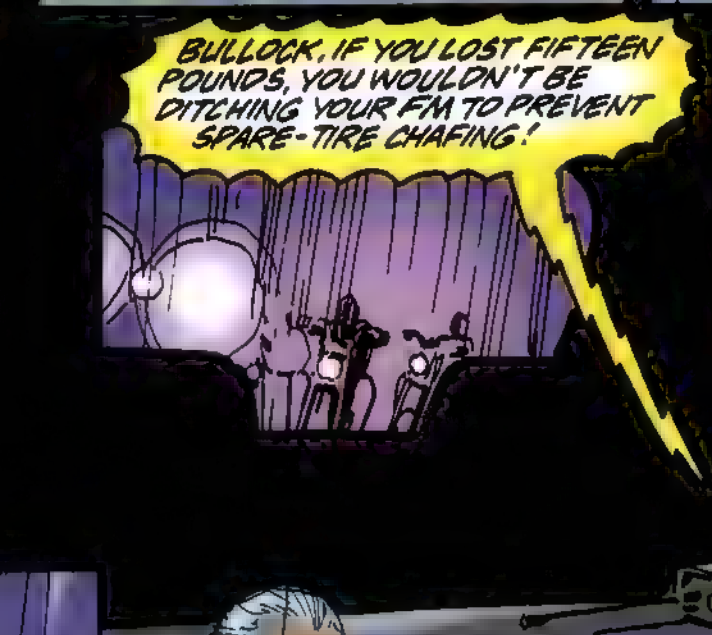
BLAST.

LEFT THE FM ON THE DASH AGAIN!



BULLOCK! WHERE ARE YOU???

HOLD YOUR HORSES!



BULLOCK, IF YOU LOST FIFTEEN POUNDS, YOU WOULDN'T BE DITCHING YOUR FM TO PREVENT SPARE-TIRE CHAFING!



AWRIGHT! AWRIGHT!

I'M TRYIN' TO GET THE DOOR UNLOCKED!!



THAT'S THE FAT PIG, OVER THERE!

HE'S MEAT, SCRUGGS!



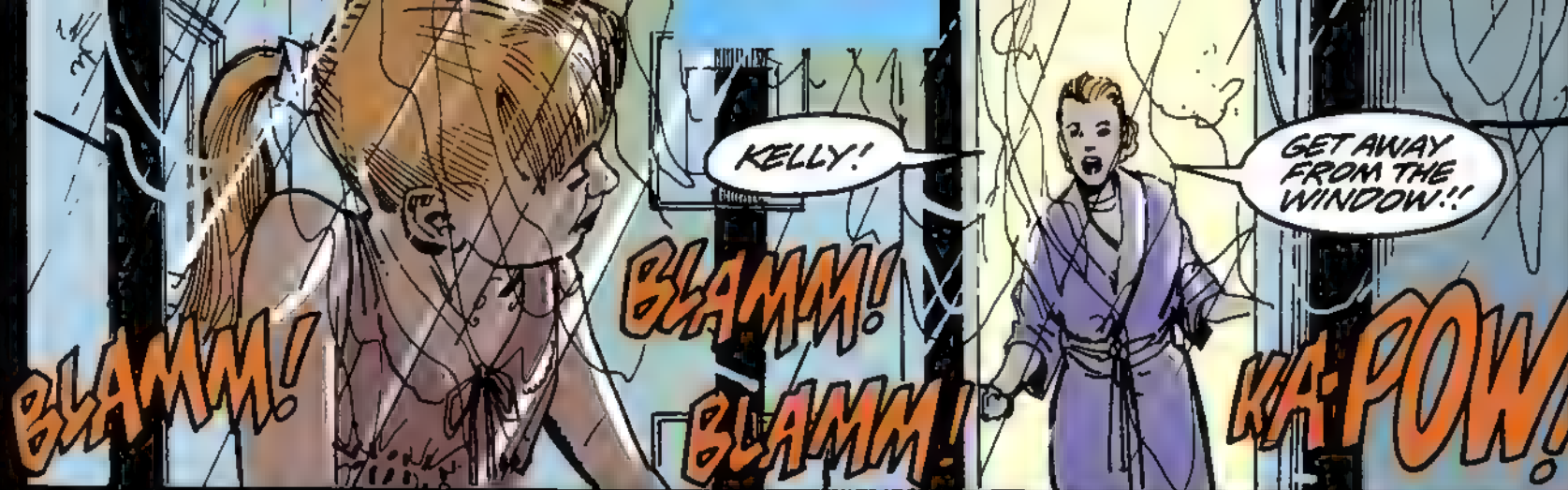
BLAMM!

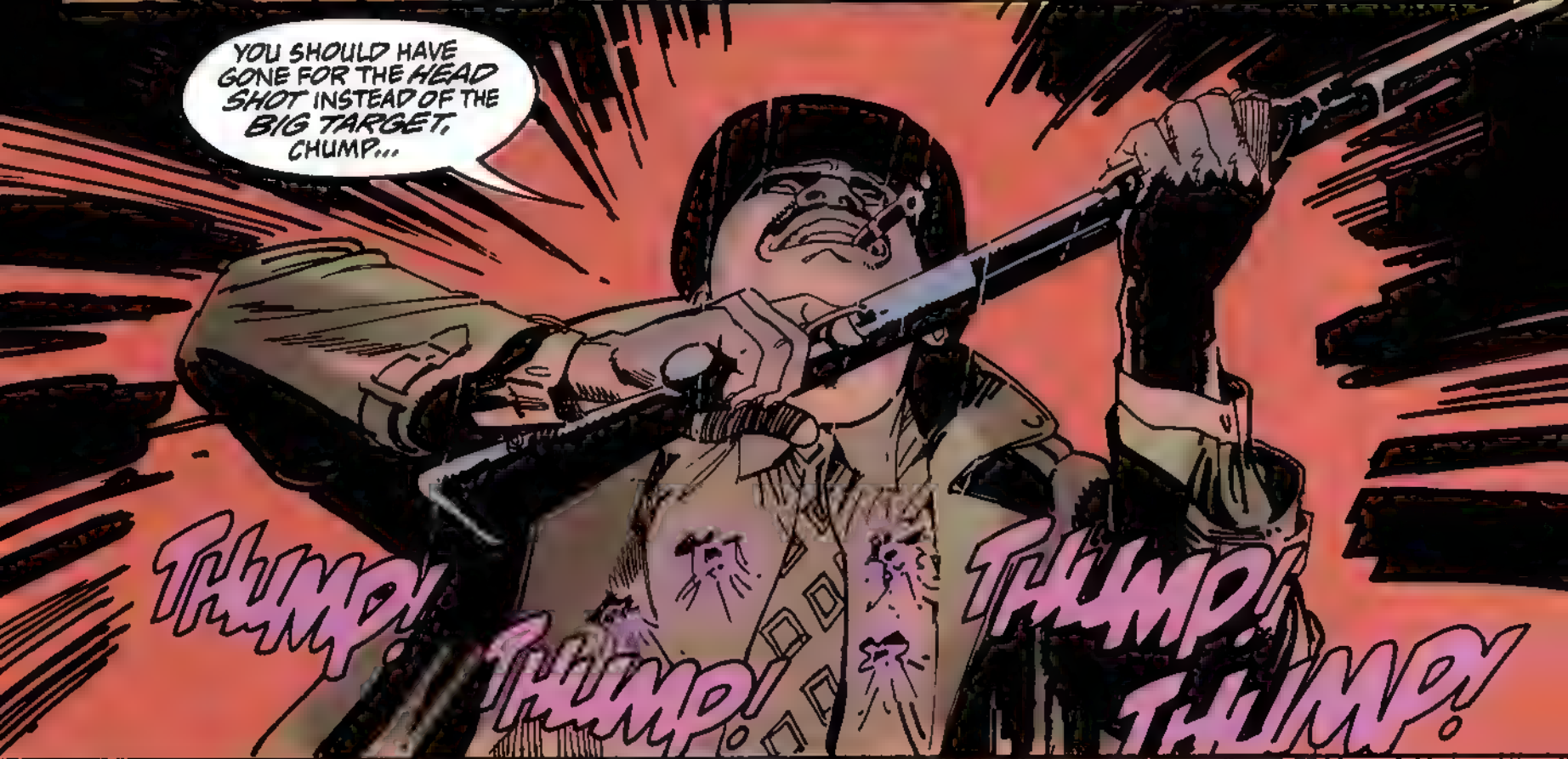
PONK!

BLAMM!

PONK!

BA-DOOM!







WATCHOO
RUNNIN' FOR,
LADY?

AIN'T
NO BACK
DOOR
TO THIS
APARTMENT!



SQUEEE EEE

BAT-THING!

OH, LORD--

--HE'S GOIN' FOR
FRANCIE AND
KELLY!



KRASH!

GOTTA
RELOAD!!



POOM!



WHAT IS THAT UGLY THING?

HOW COME IT DON'T DIE???

IT'S THE SWAMP BAT MONSTER--!

--THE ONE THAT'S BEEN ON THE NEWS!

JUST KEEP SHOOTING!!!

THE HAIL OF LEAD IS FUTILE.

MERE PROJECTILES CAN ONLY TEMPORARILY DISPLACE THE DEAD TISSUE OF A GENETIC EXPERIMENT GONE AWRY...

SHRRIP
EEEEAAAAA

...AND REANIMATED BY THE SERENDIPITOUS MIXTURE OF SWAMP SLUDGE AND TOXIC WASTE.



GAAAAAA!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!!



I NEED BACKUP AT THE SALLIS APARTMENT ASAP!

WHERE'S MONTTOYA??

SHE'S ALREADY ON THE WAY OVER?

MONTTOYA! ARE YOU HERE ON THE NET?

LISTEN, BULLOCK--THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW--

TELL ME WHEN YOU GET HERE--

-- I GOTTA GO SAVE A NICE LADY AND HER KID!

BULLOCK!! THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE--!

WHEEZE! LORDY--

GOTTA

SWEAR

OFF

THEM DONUTS!

WHUZZIS, A SUICIDAL BIKER CONVENTION?

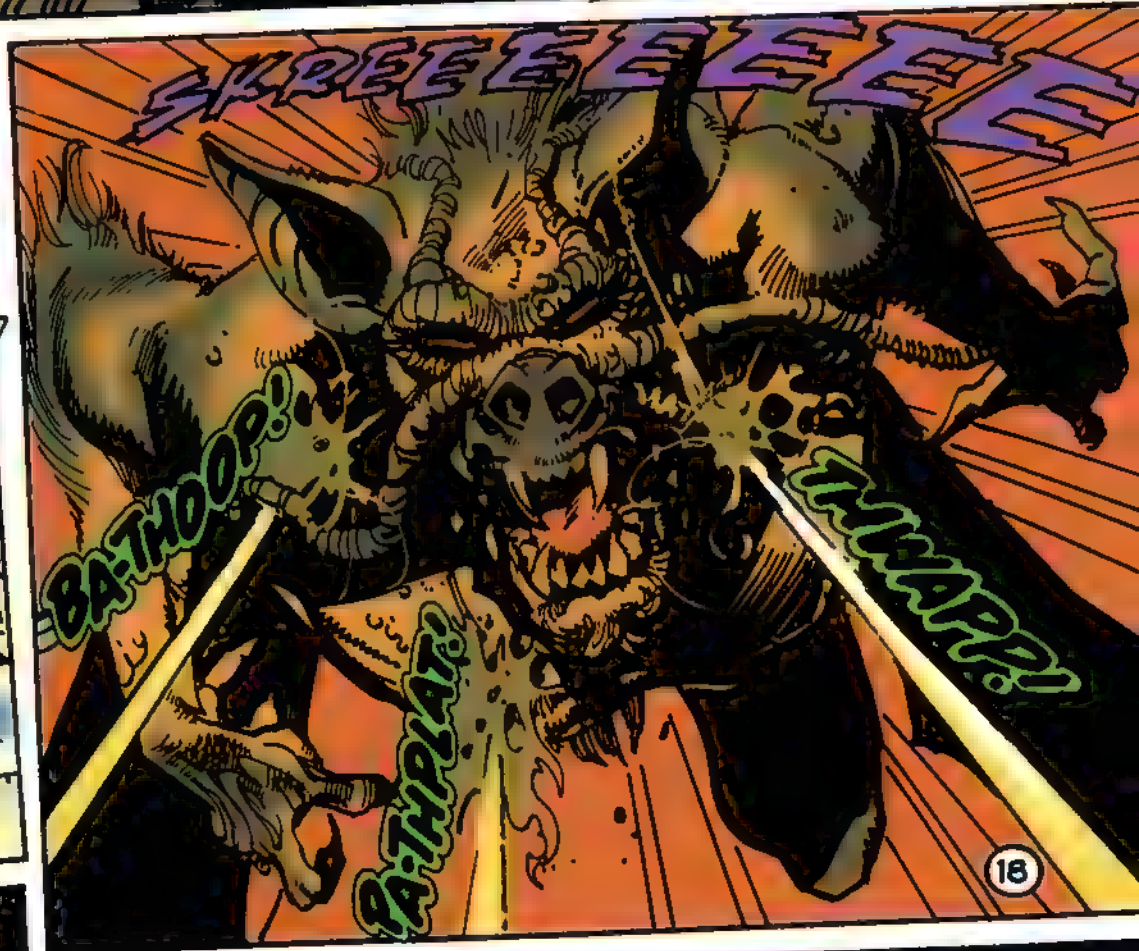
WHERE'S BAT-THING?

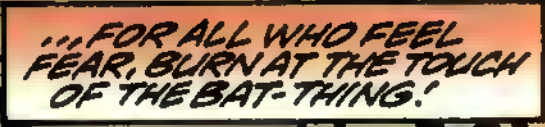
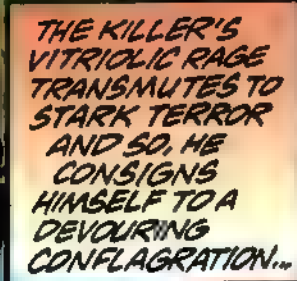


I HAD TO ASK!

I'M TAKING YOU DOWN, BIG-GUY!

BA-DOOM!
Ka-Chuk!
BA-DOOM!
Ka-Chuk!







THERE IT IS!!



HOLD YOUR FIRE!!

DON'T SHOOT THE BAT-THING!



IT SAVED MY LIFE, MONTOYA--

THAT'S WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING ALL ALONG!

HUH?

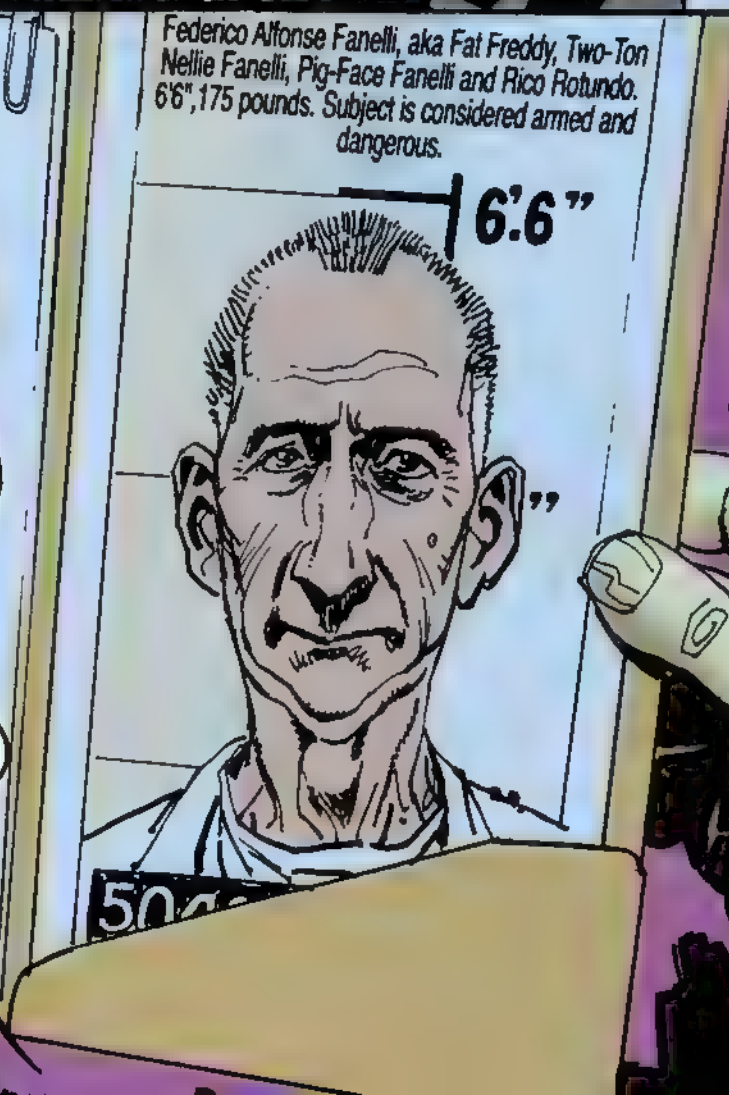


I FOUND THIS ALERT BULLETIN ON YOUR DESK UNDER A PILE OF REPORTS.

IT SAYS THAT FAT FREDDY ESCAPED FROM THE STATE PEN SIX WEEKS AGO AND IS ALREADY SUSPECTED IN THREE BANK ROBBERIES.

THAT'S HOW HE WAS BANKROLLING HIS VENDETTA AGAINST YOU, BULLOCK!

THIS ISN'T FAT FREDDY!!



Federico Alfonse Fanelli, aka Fat Freddy, Two-Ton Nellie Fanelli, Pig-Face Fanelli and Rico Rotundo. 6'6", 175 pounds. Subject is considered armed and dangerous.

6'6"



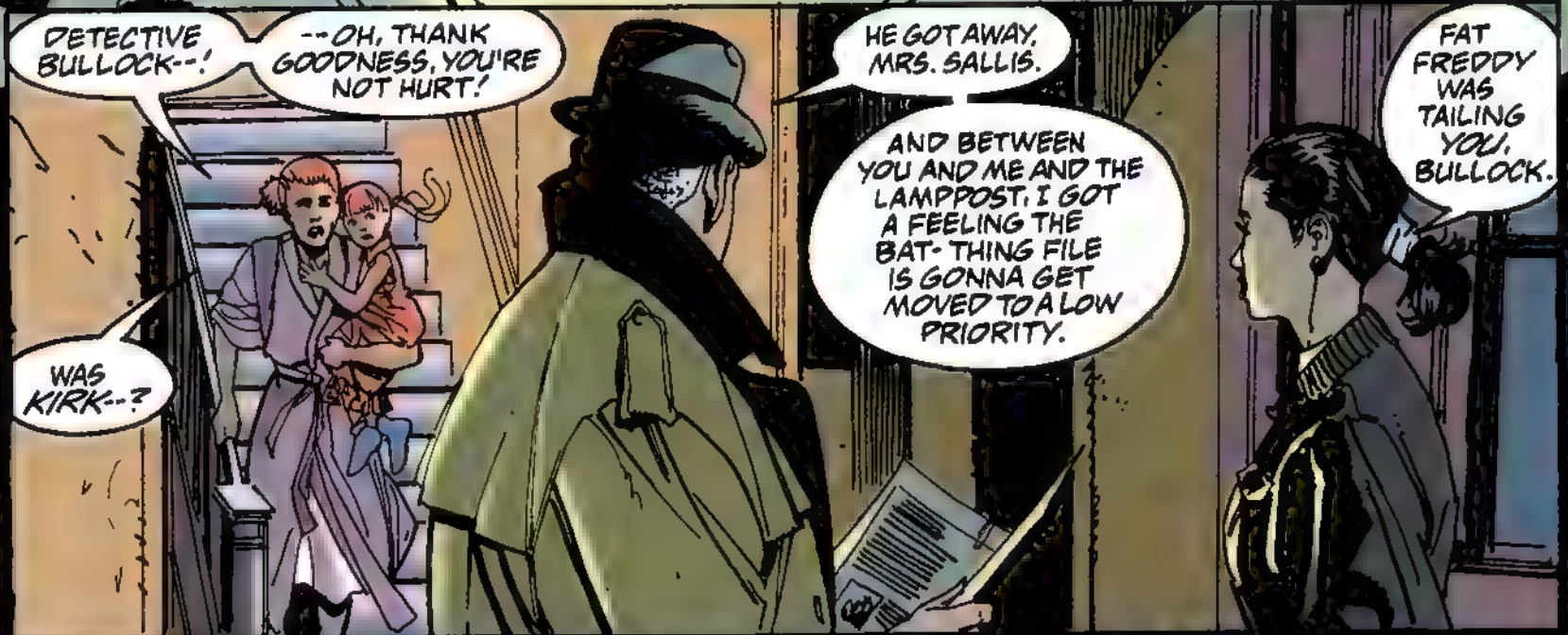
OH, BUT IT IS!

YOU BLEW MOST OF HIS FACE OFF WITH YOUR SHOTGUN, BULLOCK!

THE PRISON DOCS WERE ABLE TO RESTORE SOME OF IT, BUT THEY WEREN'T GOING FOR A GOOD LIKENESS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

THE BUCKSHOT MESSED UP HIS JAW SO BAD, HE COULDN'T EAT SOLID FOOD FOR SIX MONTHS.

HE GOT SKINNY, AND I GUESS HE STAYED THAT WAY--



DETECTIVE BULLOCK--!

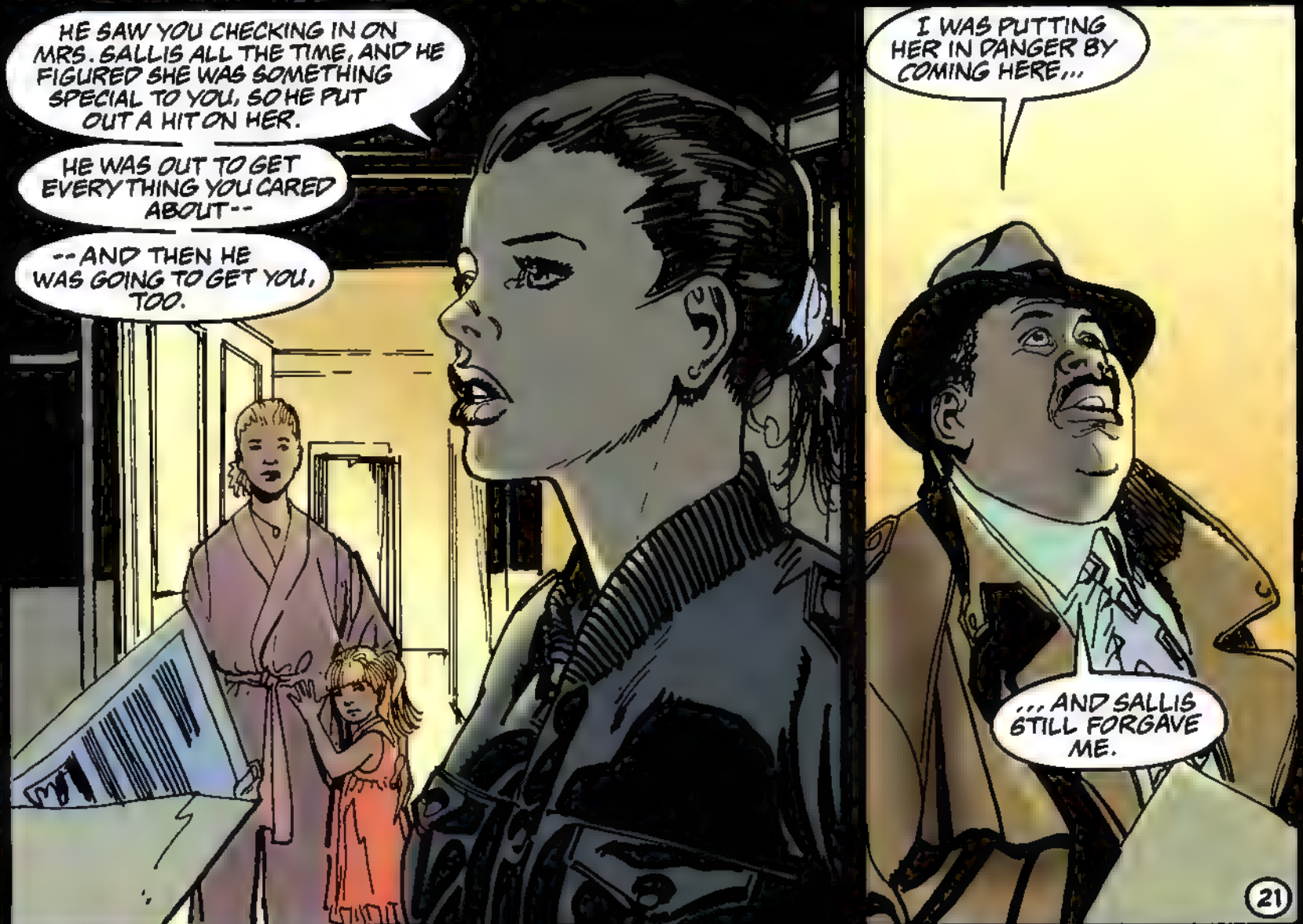
--OH, THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE NOT HURT!

HE GOT AWAY, MRS. SALLIS.

AND BETWEEN YOU AND ME AND THE LAMPPOST, I GOT A FEELING THE BAT-THING FILE IS GONNA GET MOVED TO A LOW PRIORITY.

FAT FREDDY WAS TAILING YOU, BULLOCK.

WAS KIRK--?



HE SAW YOU CHECKING IN ON MRS. SALLIS ALL THE TIME, AND HE FIGURED SHE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOU, SO HE PUT OUT A HIT ON HER.

HE WAS OUT TO GET EVERYTHING YOU CARED ABOUT--

--AND THEN HE WAS GOING TO GET YOU, TOO.

I WAS PUTTING HER IN DANGER BY COMING HERE...

...AND SALLIS STILL FORGAVE ME.

"ALL THIS TIME, HE WAS
LURKING AROUND HIS OLD
APARTMENT TO PROTECT
HIS FAMILY."

"FLYING IN TO GOTHAM
EVERY NIGHT FROM
WHEREVER IT IS IN
THAT GOD FORSAKEN
SWAMP HE CALLS
HOME."

"SOMEHOW, BAT-THING
SENSED THAT I WAS
LOOKING OUT FOR
HIS PEOPLE, TOO..."

"... AND HE STARTED
LOOKING OUT FOR ME
AS WELL. HUGGY WAS
STALKING ME, THAT'S
WHY HE GOT IT!"

"I COULDN'T EVER SEE
HIM AS ANYTHING BUT
A MONSTER, BUT NOW
I WONDER..."

"... HOW MUCH HUMANITY
IS THERE STILL LEFT
INSIDE OF HIM?"

END

Dear Slime-
Masters,

Bat-Thing
rules! Out of all
the swamp-muck,
gloom-and-doom,
eco-paranoia, bio-
tech-experiment-
gone-awry, misun-
derstood monster
comics around,
this one sort of
stands out from
the pack like an unpretentious
panelist at a comic-book conven-
tion. I especially liked the storyline
about the two-headed dog and the
little blind girl! Wow! More con-
centrated weirdness like that and
you'll have a dedicated reader for
life! I am confused about one
thing: Isn't swamp muck really
dense and heavy? Like, isn't it
heavier than water? If Bat-Thing
is so dense and heavy, how does
he manage to fly?

Ernst Stavro Blumenfeld
Avalon, Miss.

**Bat-Thing's swamp-muck-
transformed tissue is filled with
minute air pockets. Think of it as
whipped protoplasm.**



Dear Editorial People,

I am very upset. How can you
take the genius creation of Marv
Wein and Bernie Ploog and let a
hack like Larry Hama trample it
into the muck? I was aghast when
you let him take over DARK CLAW.
I stopped buying a book that I had
a complete run of, including the
hard-to-find G. Waldo Emerson and
Nelson Bridwell issues! I know
that a lot of older readers cut their
teeth on Hama's "Sgt. Fury and
the Combat-Happy Joes of Easy
Company," but that was fifteen
years ago! Besides, Hama is a
notorious self-professed anti-conti-
nuity freak! A regular RET-CON
RANGER! What this book needs
is more attention to minutiae.
Remember what Mies Van Der
Rohe said about details!!

Eamon Goldstein
Toronto, Ontario

BAT-THING

**Golly, Eamon, you sure do have
a lot of opinions, don't you?**



Dear Bat-Thing,

I wish I was like you and didn't
have a central nervous system.
Then I wouldn't be depressed so
much and have such disturbing
thoughts all the time. If only I had
a body made out of swamp muck
and I could fly! I would soar
above this horrible, unfair world
and be free, like some great drip-
ping bird. Oh, and then, if I was
like you, I would have a touch that
oozed sulfuric acid and people
who feared me would burn up and
sizzle into charred cinders! Then, I
would stand there, emotionless,
over their pitiful, smoking remains
and think deep thoughts about the
meaninglessness of our existence.

Cletus Arkham
Ravencroft, NH

**Okay. Anything you say,
Cletus.**



Dear Swamp Suckers,

I wrote a song about Bat-Thing.
Here it is:

Bat-Thing is the baddest dude;
He's ultra-nasty and he's rude.
When he's flying in the air
He might get into your hair.
Don't go messin' with his head;
He'll burn you up and make you
dead.

How's that? It's not as long or
as jumpin' as the one I wrote
about Dark Claw, but it's got a real
'tude goin', you know?

Tshonge Arbuthnot
Cleveland, Ohio

What can we
say? We are
always delighted
to tear open an
envelope and find
more ragin'
rhymes from
Tshonge!



Dear Editor,

I am curious about the dark
direction the storyline is taking.
Bingle-Burry the Two-Headed Dog
and Alicia Murdock, the little blind
girl, are such bizarre, complex
characters to be appearing in a
regular comic book. What is going
through Larry Hama's mind? And
the drawings by Rodolfo Damaggio
were simply stunning! How do
these characters fit into the
Amalgam universe and continuity?
Have they appeared in other books
that I don't know about? Are they
coming back? Is Alicia a mutant?
How does she walk through walls
if she isn't? How did Bingle-Burry
learn to speak Serbo-Croatian? I
know these are a lot of questions,
but I really do want to know!

Samantha Kumbat
BROOKLYN, CA

**Bingle-Burry and Alicia have
both appeared in STRANGE
JOURNEYS INTO MYSTERY as a
backup feature to Dr. Strange-
Fate before he got his own title
back in the sixties. You can find
out more about them in the
upcoming special issue where
they meet Howard the Mxztplx!**

—Larry Hama

**NEXT ISSUE: Batty meets the loqua-
cious Lobo the Duck. Be here,
believer!**



Cover Credits: Rodolfo Damaggio, pencils;
Bill Sienkiewicz, inks;
Patrick Martin, colors and separations.



AMALGAM COMICS, 1700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

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AMALGAM NATION

CARWALD'S CORNERBOX

Fun! That's the name of the game. Seems like everywhere you turn these days, there's somebody spoutin' off about the deficit of "fun" in his funnybooks.

To which we say, "Balderdash!"

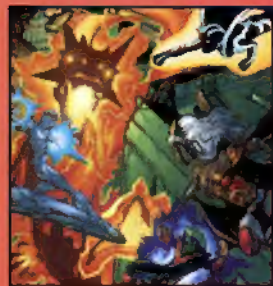
Now, there's no denyin' that the comic-book biz is just that—a business. And there are times when the profit-and-loss side of the equation seems to overshadow everything else, particularly with the advent of the faster-than-thought communication of the World Wide Web. (Speaking of which, have you gotten an eyeful of our fully-functional Amalgam Webrite yet? Four out of five dentists recommend it...and the fifth doesn't own a computer!)

But the bottom line is that nobody joins the wacky workaday world of producing four-color fantasies with the intention of getting rich. We do this because we love comics, the same as you do. There's no better place to work than in the comic biz. And the reason is, it's fun.

So have some fun today, Amalgamen and Amalgametter. We are.

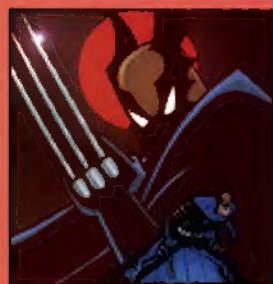
And remember, we remain ever dedicated to bringing you the finest in illustrated picto-literature! Because we know you demand no less! Accelerate!

— M.M.CARWALD

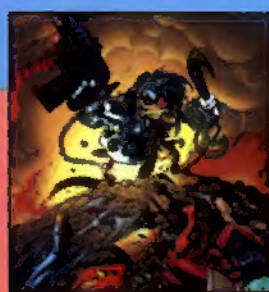


JLX UNLEASHED #1: Decimated by the Armageddon Agenda, the JLX lies at the mercy of the Hellfire League of Injustice when they summon the brimstone-born Fin Fang Flame! By Christopher "Maxi" Priest, Oscar "Jumping" Jimenez and Hanibal "The Cannibal" Rodriguez.

GENERATION HEX #1: Ride back into the Wild West days of the Amalgam Universe and see how disfigured renegade Jono Hex assembled the world's first band of metamutant gunslingers: Skinhunter, Madame Banshee, and the mysterious Retribution — all out for vengeance against a town called Humanity. By "Peerless" Peter Milligan, "Madam, I'm" Adam Pollina and Mark "More, More, More" Morales.

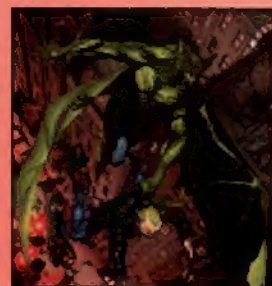


THE DARK CLAW ADVENTURES #1: Based on the hit TV show *Dark Claw: The Animated Series*! A deadly assassin called Lady Talia is loose in New Gotham! And she's after the man who killed her father, Ra's A-Pocalypse — namely, Logan! By Ty "The Guy" Templeton and "Rambunctious" Rick Burchett.



LOBO THE DUCK #1: The Main Mallard is after the mastermind responsible for the destruction of Manhattan and the deaths of the greatest Amalgam heroes! And not even his faithful girlfriend Bevarlene can ease the mighty duck's troubled mind — especially when the Lunatik-Bug bounces into the act. By Alan "The Anarchist" Grant, "Voracious" Val Semeiks, and Ray "Railroad" Kryssing.

BAT-THING #1: When a scientist mutates into a creature part human and part bat, the world can only call him — Bat-Thing! Human no longer, the hideous being seeks revenge on the motorcycle gang responsible for his cursed existence! By "Laughin'" Larry Hama, Rodolfo "Joe" Damaggio, and Bill "Sink-or-swim" Sienkiewicz.



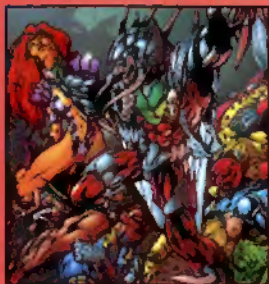
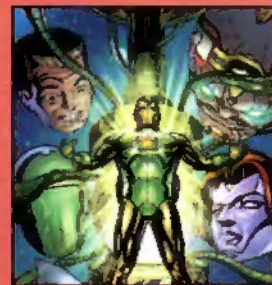
SUPER-SOLDIER: MAN OF WAR #1: Return to the Golden Age of Amalgam as the world's greatest human fighting machine joins forces with Sgt. Rock and his Howling Commandos! But can even their combined might overcome the maniacal Major Zemo's deadly War Wheel? Guest starring the All-Star Winners Society! By "Malevolent" Mark Waid, "Dauntless" Dave Gibbons, and Jimmy "Jimmy" Palmiotti.

CHALLENGERS OF THE FANTASTIC #1: Sue "Ace" Storm: fearless agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.! Reed "Prof" Richards: dynamic science genius! Johnny "Red" Storm: daredevil youth! Ben "Rocky" Grimm: two-fisted U.S. senator! They're four frankly fearless people who seek out and defy mind-blowing menaces in mysterious places. But can even they stand against the coming of Galactiac? By Karl "Don't Call Me Barbara" Kesel, "Titanic" Tom Grummett, and "Anxious" Al Vey.



THORION OF THE NEW ASGODS #1: Between the realms of New Asgard and Apokolips, Thorion battles his hated brother Lok D'Saad, while the fate of the galaxy itself hangs in the balance! But Lok has a secret weapon: the all-powerful MOTHER LOBE. And waiting in the shadows: Thanosoid! By "Kinetic" Keith Giffen and "Jumpin'" John Romita, Jr.

IRON LANTERN #1: Empowered by OA, the Living Planet, Hal Stark wears the life-sustaining armor of Iron Lantern! But can the Armored Emerald Gladiator save Stark Aircraft from the colossal Great White, the hatred of Madame Sapphire, and the world-shattering power of Mandarinestro? By "Curt" Kurt Busiek, "Tall" Paul Smith, and Al "The Pal" Williamson.



THE EXCITING X-PATROL #1: Niles Cable, Elastigirl, Shatterstarfire, Ferro Man, Beastling, and Dial H.U.S.K.! They're back — and they must face Brother Brood in a battle to the death! And if they survive — can they endure the trials of the Brood Pit? By Barbara "Don't Call Me Karl" Kesel and "Bouncin'" Bryan Hitch.

SPIDER-BOY TEAM-UP #1: Spider-Boy is saved from certain doom by another spider-powered teen who could be Spider-Boy 2099! Using the Time Cube, the heroic duo travel back to the future to meet the Legion of Galactic Guardians. By Karl "Now I'm Confused" Kesel, Roger "Ramjet" Stern, Jo "The Padron" Ladrone, and "Say It Ain't So" Vlesco.



MAGNETIC MEN FEATURING MAGNETO #1: Just as the refurbished Magnetic Men attempt to join human society, they must go up against the lethal Sinister Society and a slew of new evil robots. By Tom "Terrific" Peyer, "Bodacious" Barry Kitson and "Dancin'" Dan Panosian.

MINUTEMEN

S Y L 3 N T B o b

